

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 225

By Turner M

A RESOLUTION to honor and commemorate the life of President Ronald Wilson Reagan.

WHEREAS, this General Assembly is proud to honor and commemorate the legacies of those inspirational Americans who, throughout their estimable lives, committed themselves to public service of the highest order and whose outstanding contributions transformed our great nation and the world; and

WHEREAS, one such distinguished public servant was President Ronald Wilson Reagan, the fortieth President of the United States and a staunch advocate for the collective bargaining rights of workers, both at home and abroad; and

WHEREAS, the only President of the United States to have also served as a president of a labor union, Ronald Reagan worked assiduously to advance the wages, benefits, and working conditions of his fellow actors during his seven terms as President of the Screen Actor's Guild (SAG); and

WHEREAS, presiding over the union at one of its most challenging times, President Reagan strengthened SAG both in size and influence while confronting some of the most complicated issues in the Guild's history, including the passage of the labor-weakening Taft-Hartley Act and the severe decline in Hollywood film production, due to the rising popularity of TV; and

WHEREAS, with a platform aimed at creating jobs, encouraging productivity, and lifting wages, U.S. Presidential Candidate Reagan promised that, if he were elected, the "voice of the American worker will once again be heeded" and that he would "consult with representatives of organized labor on those matters concerning the welfare of the working people of this nation"; and

WHEREAS, during his two terms as President of the United States, Ronald Reagan masterfully guided our country through the Cold War, standing firmly against the evils of Communism while vigorously supporting those who lived in the shadow of tyranny; and

WHEREAS, when the USSR's first free and independent trade union, the Polish Solidarity Movement, demanded economic and political reforms, the Soviets responded to the stirrings of liberty with brute force and trampled what President Reagan called "the basic right of its people to form free trade unions and to strike"; and

WHEREAS, quickly condemning the oppressive Soviet reaction, Ronald Reagan extolled the brave Polish workers and eloquently explained, "They remind us that where free unions and collective bargaining are forbidden, freedom is lost"; and

WHEREAS, on June 12, 1987, President Reagan traveled to Berlin, Germany, and fearlessly confronted the tyrannical administration, commanding Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev to "tear down this wall"; and

WHEREAS, President Reagan's steadfast resolve, visionary leadership, and unwavering support for basic human dignities eventually led to the disintegration of the Soviet Union, freeing millions of people enslaved by that communistic regime; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we celebrate the extraordinary accomplishments of this exceptional public servant and human being and pay tribute to his indelible legacy as a champion of liberty, free enterprise, and workers' rights; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commemorate the life of President Ronald Wilson Reagan, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable leadership and stalwart commitment to protecting American workers and collective bargaining rights.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.